



## Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

**Steven L. Beshear, Governor**

**Leonard K. Peters, Secretary**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: Jennifer Turner  
502-564-4496**

### **Division of Forestry Firefighters May Miss Thanksgiving Dinner with Families**

**FRANKFORT, Ky.** (Nov. 24, 2015) – With the weather forecasted to be sunny and warm this Thanksgiving, not everyone will be able to spend the day celebrating with good food and an occasional football game on TV. Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF) firefighters have been battling wildfires as they occur throughout this fall and with drier weather predicted, they will be standing by to respond to wildfires this Thanksgiving.

Leah MacSwords, director of the Kentucky Division of Forestry, said "The wildfires in Kentucky are caused by some human action. Whether deliberate as is the case with arson, or due to accidents such as burning debris or faulty equipment, wildfires start because of humans. It stands to reason that if humans take care, wildfires do not have to start. It would be nice if our firefighters could enjoy the holiday with their families but I am proud that they are willing to sacrifice being with their families to protect others."

So far this fall, KDF has responded to more than 225 wildfires. Local volunteer fire departments also respond to wildfires in support of KDF's efforts. "This Thanksgiving let's be thankful for those brave firefighters," MacSwords said, "and show our support by being careful with fire outdoors so they too can be home to with their families."

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